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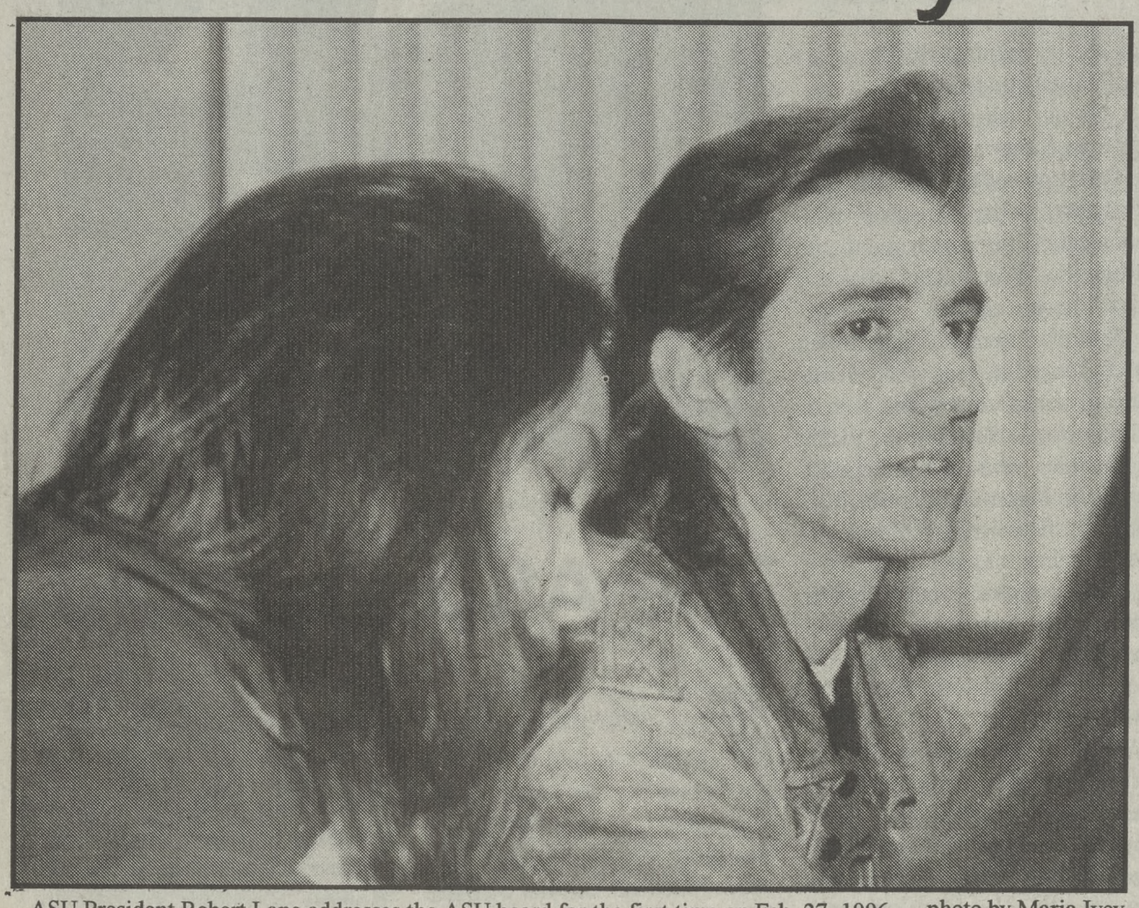
Valley Star

Volume 48 Issue No. 3 | Los Angeles Valley College | Van Nuys, California | March 7, 1996

ASU: Ready to Take on Issues



ASU President Robert Lane addresses the ASU board for the first time on Feb. 27, 1996. photo by Maria Ivey

by Monica Lid
Valley Star Staff Writer

Finally, almost six weeks into the spring semester, the Associated Student Union assembled in the Campus Center for their first meeting. Associate Dean of Students John Barnhart opened the meeting by saying "this is going to be a very difficult semester because we are starting late." The delay, explained Barnhart, "is due to the fact that we had to clean up our act."

Apparently there have been problems interpreting the constitution from 1991. Many things have changed since then such as election regulations. Because LAVC is the only college in the district that elects its commissioner for one semester at the time, some kind of misunderstanding was bound to happen.

The new President of ASU, Robert Lane, continued by expressing high hopes for this semester. "We need to change the students idea of the ASU" he said, "to make sure people know they get their $7 worth. That we are actually working on student issues here and that our offices is more than a hangout".

From this point, Lane encouraged the Commissioners to work with each other as a team. "Communication is very important" said Lane. He also emphasized the importance of representing all the different cultures here on campus, and to make sure all the different clubs receive the support they need.

Although there were a visible confusion regarding the exact tasks of the different commissioners, it seemed that most questions of doubt were answered by the time of adjournment.

Lane again encouraged commissioners "to get their feet wet",do some research regarding what projects were started last semester and to be responsible enough to finish these. "We are here for all the students so lets make sure we represent everybody" said Lane.

Other issues brought up by different commissioners were the possibility of clarifying the smoking laws on campus, the possibility of a suggestion box for students and once again the importance of proving the ASU means more than privileges in the cafeteria and preferred parking for their commissioners.

The Friendly Voice of 299

by Rebecca Fowler
and John Tarr
Valley Star Staff Writers

What is it like to be surrounded by men in uniform?

When Nora Horwich was asked this question, she smiled, looked around the room, and in her soft shy voice answered, "It's great, of course they would be lost without me," she continues jokingly, referring to her position as morning dispatcher for the Valley College campus police.

"After all I make them coffee and bring them donuts." Then, she became serious. "I really like my job and they are a great bunch of guys to work with."

Horwich has the inside track on exactly what happens in a security and emergency capacity on campus. The phone rings, she immediately answers it, but manages to answer questions in between calls.

"My job duties? I dispatch the calls to the police officers, I monitor the calls, I coordinate campus police activities, I keep can be very stressful. In moments of crisis, when panic sets in, it is Horwich who remains calm and dispatches emergency teams to the scene.

When a student passed out on campus a few weeks ago, in quick order, Horwich dispatched officers, contacted the student's mother, and helped stabilize the scene.

The needs of students and faculty come first. Sometimes Horwich hears about calls that occur off campus. This is routine. Habitch adds, "People come to me about crimes that have occurred in their homes or other places and I help them contact the proper authorities. to handle those problems."
It takes a unique individual to become involved in policing the campus, and effectively coordinating emergency deployments.

Thanks to people like Horwich, our campus is a safer place. If anyone sees a crime happening on campus, go to any campus pay phone and dial #30. Chances are, Nora Horwich will calmly and quietly answer.

is quite a group to schedule.

Horwich is not a police secretary, although it might sound that way. Coordinating and establishing the priority of multiple police activities pertinent student and faculty records," she pauses and then continues, "would you like to see the list in my job description?"

Horwich begins to retrieve the list and returns with two detailed pages of information, at which time Officer Michael Habitch interjects, "She is the central force behind this office running smoothly."

By now, Horwich's shy side is showing its soft face. Habitch encourages her to finish the interview. Although it is tough for her to be the center of attention, its plain to see Nora is the cohesive element behind a successful campus police department.

In actuality, the department is quite complex. Eleven officers, mostly former LAPD patrolman and managers, work on campus. Add to that the many student volunteers, often seen about wearing yellow jackets, and there

'Safe environment' questioned

Budget, Mission and Ventilation Topics at College Council

by Kelli Morgan
and Adam Adler
Valley Star Staff Writers

The progress of the Valley College statement of mission, the instructional budget and the much awaited building ventilation project were discussed when College Council met Feb. 27 in the President's conference room.

The College Council, chaired by Vice President of Administration Mary Ann Breckell, is a committee representing the leaders of the campus shared governance. Each group takes responsibility for management decisions within the college. Many actions of the committees on campus must be approved by the College Council.

The Master Planning Committee drafted their first version of the college's mission statement. The mission statement is a document outlining Valley College's goals over the next ten years.

Al Zucker, chair of the Master Planning Committee, was unable to attend the College Council meeting, but had submitted his draft.

The goals most prominent goals included to "expand and develop the use of technolgy in both instructional support areas; provide an accessible, supportive and safe physical environment; provide programs and activities that will enhance the economic development of the college's service area; develop and support a wide range of instruction strategies that will permit greater flexibility for students; and encourage and develop professional growth among the staff."

The main concern about the mission statement was that it did not reflect a broad range of campus opinions. Tyree Wieder, Valley College president, said the statement needed wider exposure and comment. Dr. Richard Moyer, acting vice president of academic affairs, suggested a town hall meeting to discuss the mission statement on campus. Faculty Senate President Jack Sterk thought a town hall meeting would "have a tendency to undermine the work of the College Committee."

Sam Mayo, retiring dean of students affairs, thought the term "safe learning environment" implied the college was not safe and said, "It's not the story I want to tell."

Mary Ann Breckell, taking all points into consideration, suggested that the mission statement be sent back and have "safe environment" reconsidered.

A vote was taken and it was decided to send the mission statement back to the committee.

As far as the Instructional Budget, both the Instructional Committee and the Buget Committe submitted plans for approval. The plans only differ by 2 FTE's (Full Time Equivalents), but that difference would have to be reconciled in order for it to be included in the operational plan for next year. The Instructional Committe suggested that the instructional buget be funded at the same level as last year.

Sterk supported the budget remaining the same as last year. Wieder wanted more information to make a decision to put through an instructional budget. Breckell proposed that the "Help Yourself" Committee, formed to reconcile the difference, should be able to take care of the issue.

A report was given by Breckell on the building ventillation plan. The plan has three phases, with each phase selecting certain buildings to gradually include all of the campus. The first phase of the plan had been approved last year but lacked funding. Breckell said a bond issue, proposed in Sacramento, would pay for phases one and two. Each phase is estimated to cost $1 million to $2 million.

The proposed spending plan for the block grant funds was presented for the president's approval. She chose not to approve the plan immediately. Wieder decided to go over the plan at a later time with the same budget subcommittee that proposed the distribution of block grant funds. Wieder was of the opinion that the funds could be more widely distributed across the campus.

The committee consists of Wieder, Sterk, the associated students president, the American Federation of Labor chapter presidents Pat Allen and Luke Davis, Moyer, Dean of Student Services Sam Mayo and Jim Acosta representing non-AFT classified staff members.

Dr. Willett Remembered

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

Dr. James Willett, professor of history at Valley College from 1966-1991, passed away on Friday February 23.

Prior to his almost 25-year career at Valley, he taught for several years at Westchester and Arbonne high schools.

Dr. Willett received his B.A. and M.A. from UC Berkeley and his Ed.D. from USC.

His area of specialty was Latin American history. He also taught western civilization classes here and served on the HHLPS Department Scholarship and Hiring Committees. He is survived by his wife, Nancy.

If anyone would like to send their condolences to Nancy Willett, please contact Dr. Robert Pritchard, in political science.

The faculty and students will remember Dr. Willett with many fond memories.

Campus Clips:

Students who need to take the elementary algebra competency test can go the Administration building, room 126 on Tues. Mar.12 at 1 p.m. or Tues. Mar. 26 at 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary.

A financial aid Ability to Benefit test will be held on Thurs., Mar.21 in Administration, room 126 at 6 p.m. No appointment is necessary but you **must** bring a picture ID.

A physician is now available every Tues. from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. and Wednesday from 1:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Student Health Clinic. For more information, call (818) 780-0652.

The Mathematical Competition '96 will take place on Friday, Mar.15 from 2-5 p.m. in the Math Science building, room 107. You can register with this year's competition director, Mr. Albert Natian, in MS 104-D on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10-11 a.m. **The deadline to register is 2p.m. Fri. Mar. 8.**

Did you know that you can call the campus police from any pay phone on campus, without money, by dialing 30? The Campus Police office is staffed by two police officers, 24 hours per day, every day.

The Spring 1996 Career Development Workshop Series will offer its daytime session on resume writing, Wed. Mar. 6 from 1-2:30 p.m. and an evening session is on Mon Apr. 8 from 6-7 p.m. The next session is about Career Exploration and Self-Assessment; the daytime sessions are held on Mondays, Mar.18 and 25 (participants must attend both sessions) from 1-3 p.m. The evening sessions on this topic will be held on Wednesdays, Apr. 24 and May 1 from 6-8 p.m.

The LAVC music department Campus Concert Series - Spring 1996 will perform Thurs. Mar.7, a ZEPHYR vocal ensenble at 11 a.m.; William Kanengiser, guitarist Master class, will perform on Sunday, Mar.10 at 2 p.m. Kanengiser will also perform in concert at 7:30 p.m. Adult admission is $6; students and seniors $5; and Ralph Nichols, pianist, will perform on Thurs., Mar.14 at 11 a.m. All performances will be held in the Music Recital Hall unless otherwise specified.

DOE Science and Engineering Research Semester offers cutting-edge, hands-on research to college students studying computer science, engineering, physics, environmental and life sciences, mathematics or physical science. Please call (202) 488-2426 for an application and information. **The deadline for fall 1996 is Mar. 15.** Spring 1997 deadline is Oct. 20, 1996.

Hollywood Women's Press Club Scholarship Foundation will again award scholarships for Journalism, Communication, Public Relation or related study programs. Deadline for applications is May 6, 1996. For requirements and applications please call Helen Itria Norman at (818) 996-0117 or Helen Nielsen Allen at (310) 459-2020..

The San Fernando Valley Chapter of Ninety-Nines, Inc. will award scholarships to students pursuing careers in aviation and aerospace. Applications are available by sending a self-addressed, business size envelope to Sandra Bullock, 4365 West 141st Street, #107, Hawthorne, CA 90250-7169. **Deadline for applications is Apr. 11, 1996.**

Tau Alpha Epsilon will present its annual Skate Night at Northridge Skateland Sun. Mar. 10 from 7-10 p.m. Admission is $4.50--members and guests are welcome. For more information contact TAE President Jose Alvarez. Funds raised will help fund TAE student scholarships.

Beck on Tech: Will New Computers End Privacy?

Tech Files Part 2

by John Beck
Valley Star Staff Writer

(Note: this is part two of the series about personal empowerment and communication technology).

It seems you can't pick up a magazine anymore without being hit with Internet this...Information Superhighway that...Global Cyber-Village the other thing. In last week's Star I was going on about what all this might actually mean to those of us who are not propeller-heads or card carrying members of the Pocket Protector Posse.

There seems to be no doubt that once the phone and cable companies finish dividing up the pie, we're going to see some amazing things develop. But who is going to have access to them and at what cost?

Will you be able to create a movie or a magazine or music that people will be able to buy simply by calling up its number for delivery to your electronic mailbox? Or will there be an agency out there checking what you've done, censoring you? Will technology be so cheap that you will be able to afford to do this? Or will the system result in multimillion-dollar data banks that only the richest companies can afford to own and run?

To bring personalized services into your living room, the system and those who control it will have to know a hell of a lot about you.

With that universe of information out there, the computers that will let you move quickly through the 'virtual mall' on your PC or TV screen will have to know what store you're in and where you'd like to go. These computers will remember what you've looked at and what you've bought. They could know the content of your most personal conversations and your most sensitive business transactions. And that information will be available to anyone with the knowledge and the money (and the lack of scruples) to get it.

The linking together of all databases will mean the relative privacy we now enjoy, largely due to confusion among the number-gatherers, will end. The IRS database will talk to your credit card company and the census will talk with them both.

Every purchase, every pause at a shop windows to examine something while visiting the 'virtual mall' will be duly noted; and from all this data could emerge a very accurate picture of your likes and dislikes and a remarkably lifelike portrait of your very thoughts.

Just as the telegraph destroyed distance, and the telephone destroyed the privacy of the home, this marriage of media, computers, cable, telephones, cellular, satellite and microwave technology will shrink the world to the palm of your hand; the hand in which rests the remote control of tomorrow.

This is power--for good or evil. And the ways in which society can or should regulate this force are still largely undefined.

On our last physical frontier, over a century ago, the barons of industry owned the railroads--and by extension the channels of communication and commerce to and from the West. The little guy didn't have a chance.

Then the automobile came along and changed all that by democratizing transportation and access.

Cable and telephone and media companies, who are fighting even now for baron-like control over the 'information highway' may prevail--or they may not.

The electronic counterpoint to the car may turn out to be a chip the size of a wristwatch with the power of today's mightiest computers.

Whether your interested in them or not, computers are going to have a huge effect on your life. Five years from now ? There's going to be the people who know how to use computers--and the people who sweep after them.

The ASU and You

Adam Adler
Valley Star Staff Writer

Have you ever voted in the ASU elections? If you have not that's fine, I am sure you were real busy and short on time. Maybe you did not know when the elections were going to be. It is O.K., you probably would of if you had the chance.

Let me just ask you though, do you go to club days? Did you go to the homecoming dance? Did you go to the Unity Celebration? Did you know the ASU put on these events? The ASU puts on several events a semester. If you have ever attended an event on campus, the ASU most likely had a part in it.

Now let me ask you, have you ever used the Learning Center? How about the biology lab? The Writing Center? Have you ever been to the Library during its weekend hours? Are you on one of the athletic teams? Would you be in the music or dance program? The ASU helps fund these programs with money from the ASU membership fee.

When was the last time that you stopped a tuition fee increase? Along with their other responsibilities the ASU is the governmental body that represents the interests of students on campus to the District and State Board of Education. The ASU, in cooperation with other student associations across the state, takes care of things like fee increases and preventing cancellation of classes. The last time Governor Wilson threatened to raise the fee per unit a contingent of ASU members went to Sacramento to participate in a demonstration.

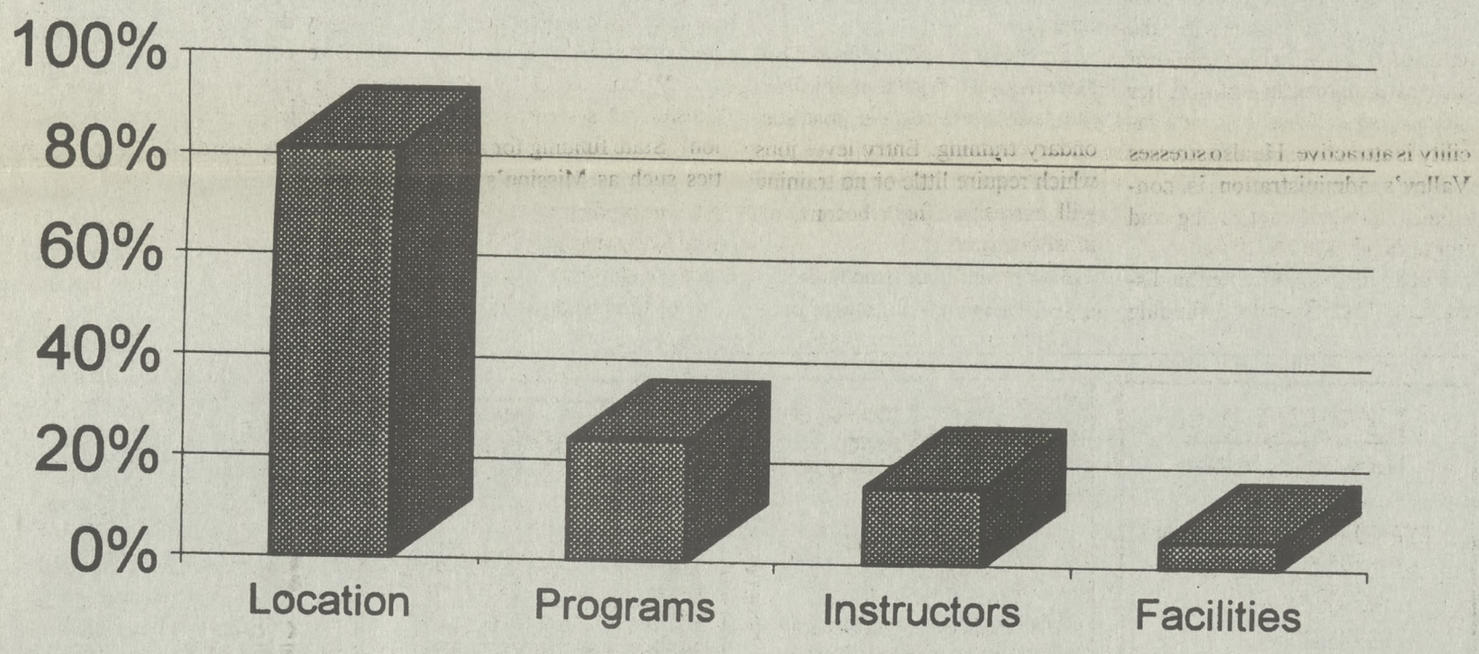
I'll ask again, have you ever voted in the ASU elections? How important do you think voting is now? The ASU is more than some club on campus where people hang out. They contribute a lot of work and service for the college and for the students. Maybe next time when you see the polling booth in Monarch Square you might take a couple of minutes and fill out a ballot. The next time you see a poster advertising the election date you might do more than just pass it by.

Not to mention the ASU is always looking for more student involvement.

If you want to get more involved with what they are doing, they would be more than happy to have your help.

The ASU is your student union. The more you get involved, the more the ASU does for you.

Why Students Attend Valley College



Valley Students Faithful to School

The administration here at Valley College is a little nervous about Mission College getting a new, 200 plus computer lab on their campus. They fear that if Mission does get a new computer lab many Valley College students will transfer there.

The Valley Star did not agree, so we conducted a survey consisting of 117 students on campus to see what students thought.

The survey weighed heavily toward computer users to find the largest count of students who were most likely to transfer. The average age of the students surveyed was 26.6 years old which, we were told, is very close to the average age of Valley College students.

While we admit that 117 of approximately 14,000 students is not a large number, the survey was targeted at students who stay around campus and would be most likely to use the computers here.

We are happy to report that 81% of students surveyed said they go to Valley College because of its location and would not transfer to Mission if they get a new computer lab.

The students could list more than one reason for attending school here and of those surveyed, the percentages are as follows: 24% of the students surveyed said they come to here for specific programs; 15% said College once again. These are numbers of students, not percentages: 27 of them said Mission was too far; 12 said Valley College was close to home; 13 already have their own computers; 4 like the classes here; 9 said they love Valley College; 1 guy said Mission makes you supply your own paper (we did not verify this); 8 students said they do not use computers at all; 2 come here because Valley College is far from their homes—they will not be distracted by their friends; and 3 said Valley College has computers, why transfer?

The bottom line is that Valley College will not loose students to Mission just because of a new computer lab. Valley students are loyal to their school.

The 117 students were asked why they would not go to Mission College and the numbers are in favor of Valley they come here because of the instructors; 5% said they come here because of the facilities like the gymnasium, pool and KVM radio station; and another 5% said it was cheap.

A mere 10% of students said they would transfer and they were mainly CSIT or undecided majors. The reason they would transfer was to keep up-to-date or to access specific programs not offered in Valley College computer labs. The average age of these students is 22, younger than the school's overall average.

HEY!

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

Dear Readers:

The staff at the Valley Star would like to hear from **YOU**. We want to hear **YOUR** opinion on current issues or something happening on campus that **YOU** would like to talk about.

We will print **YOUR** letters in upcoming editions of the Valley Star, giving **YOU** a voice on campus.

Write your letters addressed: "Letters to The Editor-Valley Star." They will appear in the Campus Forum section on the Opinion page.

Valley Star does reserve the right to edit obscene materials as well as the rights described in the box below.

YOU can drop your letters at the Valley Star Bungalow #25 or at the Admissions building in the box labeled "On Campus Mail."

We look forward to hearing from **YOU**!

Adam Adler
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Published Thursdays throughout the school year by students of the Journalism and Photography classes using computers and Aldus Pagemaker.

Represented by CASS
Advertising Service
1800 Sherman Pl.
Evanston, IL. 60201

Editorial and Advertising Offices
5800 Fulton Avenue Van Nuys , Calif. 91401
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✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS ✪ LETTERS

The Valley Star will receive and, if possible, publish letters from its readers. The Star reserves the right to condense all letters for space considerations. Submitted letters should be limited to 350 words. Letters are subject to editing if they are obscene, libelous, or make racial, ethnic, religious, sexist, or sexually oriented denigrations. Letter must be signed and include student's ID number. Letters may be dropped at the Valley Star Bungalow 25, by Monday morning for the following Thursday.

The Valley/Mission Computer Battle

by Allen Cochrane
Valley Star Staff Writer

Interest in the soon-to-be complete computer lab at Los Angeles Mission College has put technology at the top of the list of priorities for many district colleges.

Mission College's Acting Vice President of Academic Affairs Tom Oliver said, "The concept is to enter the 21st century in 1996." With a new computer facility opening in the fall, equipped with the latest in equipment, Mission is on track to reach that goal.

Valley College is also moving forward to meet the technology needs of the students. Dr. Frank Sinsheimer, acting dean of academic affairs, said Valley will be opening a new 'smart lab,' possibly this summer or at the latest, in time for the fall semester.

The lab will have 30 new 100 MHz pentium processors and may augment the development of the Business Journalism Building into a high tech center. The BJ building currently houses 131 computers, and is the focus of efforts to get the appropriate sanction from the Faculty Senate, College Council, Valley College President Tyree Wieder and the College's Technology Committee.

Sinsheimer said the addition of the new computers will help in the race to keep up with progress but, "Technology is growing much faster than the budget. The president organized the Technology Committee to tackle the problem of aligning budget restrictions with technology needs."

While Valley is dealing with the standard problems of balancing a budget, Mission is in an enviable position. Mission received $3 million in state funds and earmarked them for what Dr. Oliver considers to be a state of the art computer lab. The lab will be housed in a new structure at the Sylmar campus. It should open this fall with an array of facilities which may be the envy of the Los Angeles Community College District.

Dr. Oliver said, "The lab will have 275 student work stations running pentium systems with 16 MB of RAM., with Windows 95 and 96 capability—all with hard drives, networked and able to run video." Six server systems, a CD ROM server with an initial phase ability of 100 CDs simultaneously accessible (a unique capability in the area), a video server accessible at any work station, an application server to handle Novell Software, an application server to handle Microsoft N.T. (New Technology), Internet access and e-mail. The lab will also have 20 engineering work stations, five disabled student stations and 20 instructor multimedia work stations.

With the competition promoting these kind of figures, Valley administration is looking at ways to get optimum use of its current 327 student-use computers. If the new 30 computer lab is added, Sinsheimer said, he believes it will help lessen impacted high use areas such as the CSIT Lab. Good selling points of the school's facilities are paramount if Valley is to compete for new students and the funding, which goes hand in hand with increased enrollment.

Efficient use of the computer labs is a major part of this sales job and Sinsheimer said the faculty and staff are organizing efforts to institute greater access for both the students and staff.

Valley is also hopping on the information highway with administration and department chairs soon to have e-mail and Internet access. A block grant has also supplied each department with a new computer earmarked for e-mail and Internet access to be available throughout the campus in the immediate future. Student Internet access is proposed with a nominal fee to cover each account.

Just as Mission has done, Valley has invested effort in scrutinizing the Media Arts Technology field and determining needs of the industry in the future. Sinsheimer said Valley has consulted with private sector members in the field and will be seeking funding to meet the technology specifics necessary for training.

Mission has targeted part of their state grant toward a new video production studio to have full server access and equipment. Also, it will have a faculty area for curriculum development and high-tech presentation.

Oliver said Mission's new facilities will be an enticing attraction to prospective students. "I think it will be self promoting," he said. "Like the field of dreams, if you build it they will come."

Oliver forecasts a growth from 6,000 to 10,000 students by the year 2000 for Mission because of the new computer lab. Sinsheimer acknowledges Mission's new facility is attractive. He also stresses Valley's administration is constantly at work improving and upgrading Valley College.

Valley also is lobbying the district and Sacramento for funding for comparable fund disbursements. School enrollments can be expected to grow statewide, because of 'Baby Boom 2' in the next five years, Sinsheimer said. The impact of a grade school populace—some 400,000 students beyond previous levels—is expected to impact the state college systems.

Sinsheimer said national labor statistics say 75 percent of jobs in the future will require post secondary training. Entry level jobs which require little or no training will correspondingly become almost obsolete.

Oliver said, "The focus will be supplementing education programs with technology and doing a tremendous amount of staff development so they see the future and want to be a part of it. Staff has to have the skills to generate student contact hours."

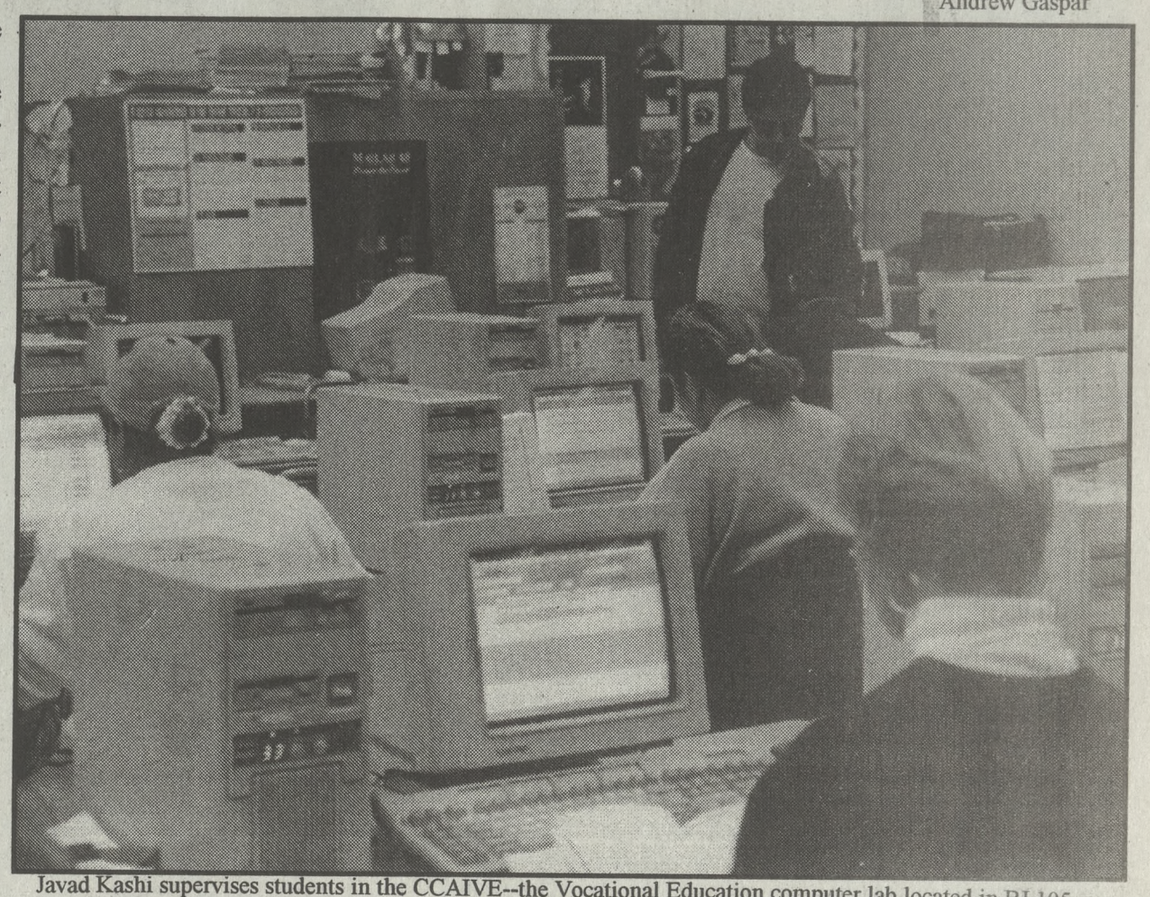
Mission has allocated $50,000 to each discipline to integrate their curriculum into the new computer system for campus wide faculty and student access.

What is Oliver's and Sinsheimer's consensus of opinion? State funding for new facilities such as Mission's computer lab is unpredictable at best. Oliver said Mission was in the right place at the right time.

"For funding they look at a lot of issues. We are a growing school, and because of many things, some political, the special needs of the area, we got the building. Who knows why certain projects get picked."

Sinsheimer said successful lobbying at Sacramento becomes a priority of college presidents as they develop connections and influence. The best lobbying reaps the greatest reward. And with Mission's new computer lab, the effort is worth the potential reward.

Andrew Gaspar



Javad Kashi supervises students in the CCAIVE--the Vocational Education computer lab located in BJ 105.

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No lack of experience here

by Kelli Morgan
Valley Star Staff Writer

Eric Swelstad, part-time instructor hand full-time director/writer for film and televeison, joined the broadcasting staff of Valley College last semester with an abundance of knowledge and enthusiasm. While he has achieved a level of success many only dream of, he is still hoping to make *THE* "big deal" with Hollywood.

One of his latest projects, a screenplay called "Baker's Dozen", has recently been read by producers on the Paramount Studio lot. The genre of the movie is a comedy, similar to "Spinal Tap", where the story is told through the camera of the story teller. Paramount loved it and recommended it to Fine Line Pictures, one of the professional production companies under their expansive roof. "Baker's Dozen", a full-length film , now in script form, will also be pitched at Miramax soon.

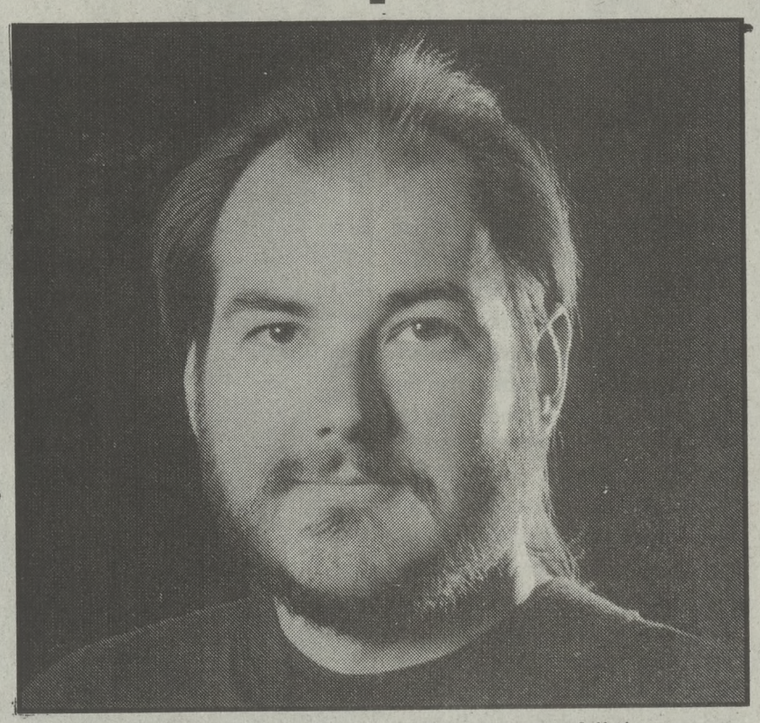
For those of you who have him as an instructor and like him, do not worry. If he does negotiate a "big deal" for this current film, he said he will not give up teaching. He feels that he has a lot to offer young television and film students, not to mention, he thoroughly enjoys teaching. If he does not get a deal, he would like to produce the film by having students work on it for a class project. If or when that happens, the film would be directed toward film festivals such as the Sundance, New York and Telluride Film festivals.

Swelstad is an exceptional instructor not only because of his knowledge and experience, but also because of his desire to share that experience with others. Basically, his teaching philosophy. He loves the interaction between himself and his students and finds teaching thrilling.

He has always had a passion for helping kids learn and believes that, "There is a lot of need for people with good skills to pass it on."

Swelstad was born in Indiana and grew up while moving around the midwest with his family. From the time he was about 10-years-old, he knew that he was going to be a film writer and director. He went to college at Ohio State University where he received his B.A. degree in 1987, majoring in television and film with a concentration in writing and directing. He received his Masters degree in 1989 which enabled him to teach undergraduate students there for about a year before moving on.

For his Master's thesis, Swelstad directed a action thriller, a feature film entitled "Fallen Angels." He formed a class at Ohio State to create the film and they even raised the $100,000 needed to produce the project. They solicited and received donations from private investors who were eager to donate to the student project that would eventually be seen in Hollywood. Swelstad did bring "Fallen Angels" to Hollywood and still seeks the arena to expose the movie to the general public.



Part-time instructor Eric Swelstad has a first career as a full-time director/writer for film and television.

When he moved to Los Angeles in 1989, he was amazed that many of the people who live here were unaware of the impact Hollywood has on the rest of the world. He said he, "Expected more knowledge of the importance of the entertainment industry." And commented that, "There is never a shortage of the need for good ideas in Hollywood."

According to Swelstad, the three most important things that someone needs to break into the entertainment industry are: talent, perserverance, and the ability to make connections if they don't already know someone in the industry.

Shortly after arriving in L.A., Swelsted was hired by HBO and worked there for almost two years. During that time he also worked on freelance projects for Paramount Studios, CAA (a large advertising agency), Warner Brothers and others. He worked as a reader, director, writer, a production crew member. You name it, he's probably done it (as far as film and television goes).

Some of the projects Swelstad has done include a pilot that he directed called "Tilted Television", similar to Saturday Night Live and MAD TV, it won a Tele Award in 1995 and has sparked the interest of HBO and Comedy Central. A Tele Award is given to programs that express superior talent and production quality. Ira Heffler, who was a producer on "Tilted Television" has become a writing partner on his last two projects.

A short film he directed called "Party," starring Gary Coleman, had it's debut screening last summer. The film won an award form the Film Council of Greater Columbus, and he's currently shopping deals with HBO, Showtime and Sundance Productions.

Swelstad also co-directed a TV movie of the week entitled "About Love" which deals with domestic violence among Asian groups. The movie was nominated for an Emmy Award and won a Tele Award as well as a Bronze Award in the Worldfest Houston Film Festival in 1993. At the end of the broadcast, the producers displayed a 1-800 number which victims of domestic violence could call and receive information about help available to them. The amount of people who called the number was overwhelming.

"About Love" is now available at many university libraries, including CSUN, and has been incorporated as required viewing for certain Asian study classes.

As if he isn't busy enough, Swelstad is also currently the technical coordinator for LAUSD's Net Day project. Net Day, March 9, is the target date that the District has set to get as many elementary, middle and high schools on line as possible. Swelsted is working directly with companies like Apple Computers on this project. He has been at Patrick Henry middle school in Granada Hills for almost a year helping them with their networking, LAN, servers, etc. Through this project, he also has the opportunity to work with children in special education classes, helping them learn to use computers.

He is currently teaching 3 broadcasting classes at Valley College including a Radio/TV/Film writing class on Monday evening.

The thing he really likes about our school is that the students get actual hands-on experience with editing and video equipment. He said, "A lot of schools will show students the equipment and teach them theory but not let them actually use it."

Swelstad's current film project is an apocalyptic thriller called, "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," which is about four smugglers in Mexico. He said it takes an average of 8 months to a year to write a 90-120 minute show.

Throughout his success and active lifestyle in the entertainment industry, Swelsted remains grounded and conversing with him you realize he is a very down to earth guy. He's enthusiastic about his work and more than willing to discuss any aspect of his knowledge.

We at Valley College are lucky to have a new instructor with so much to offer his students.

Missing Students

by Peter Dowhaniuk
Valley Star Staff Writer

Note: this story was written before the author dropped Journalism 108, Feature Writing.

Valley College students must have noticed that many people enrolled in classes the first few weeks are not around for the final exam. But just how great is this drop out rate, and why does it happen?

Dropping out for financial reasons is a good guess for the leading cause, being particularly applicable for four year colleges, especially the private ones where the tuition is high. At community colleges, finances are the major reason for lack of solid academic achievement. So says Sam Mayo, Valley College's outgoing dean of student services and for many years, dean of admissions.

Mayo said, after looking at the records of student who leave, he saw strings of "C" and a few "D" grades. The problem was not due to failing or "flunking out," but instead due to a lack of success.

There must have been a moment of agony, shall I stay or shall I go, that the student experienced. If someone or something could show the student how to get out of that hole he had dug for himself, some students careers at Valley could be saved.

Surprisingly, Mr. Mayo also noted that usually the student does not make the final departure during their first semester at Valley, Because of the liberal policy of withdrawing with a "W" well into the term, many students re-enroll the following semester.

An interview with Reggie Reed, a counselor, revealed the college has an orientation program aimed at preparing the new student for what to expect and what to do to stay in school. First, the college sends enrollees literature, then the future students arrive on campus. If those people opt to miss this, they must sign a statement saying they were aware of the invitation. Late enrollees also receive the information packet.

Reed said the indoctrination is thorough and includes the required tests as listed in the schedule of classes. Many of the students do not take advantage of this; they just arrive the first day of class, without the proper placement tests. In orientation, students also hear about the Learning Center. If a student's transcript signals learning problems, immediate counseling takes place. If the student is on academic probation, they can attend workshops to help them. Valley College is not ignoring the failing student.

With the financial aid available, it is not likely a student cannot afford the price of the college, $13 per unit. Other problems arise. Some students have to support their family: spouse, children or parents. Transportation cost or availability also eliminates some students. Some mothers cannot afford babysitters. Although Valley College has a child care center, it has limitations, such as space and age requirements. Bringing a child to school is not always practical.

Many times the student is not adequately prepared for the courses. A student nurse may find a need to take algebra—but if that person had no math background in high school, there is a gap. Sometimes classes do not meet the student's expectations—either too difficult or focused in an unappealing way. And occasionally a trade school, or a four-year college, may be the answer.

Regardless of reasons, some dropping out is a reality and will always be part of college education. But what is excessive? The exact reasons in all cases may never be known because the student can leave without an absolute obligation to explain. The subject is a fascinating one and a student may not result in solutions—but a study may influence changes in how and what is taught at Valley College.

Cartoon Themes Come Alive

by Monica Lid
Valley Star Staff Writer

Bulletproof Recording Company Inc./MCA Records Inc.

To those of you who jumped out of bed early Saturday mornings to catch your heroes for an hour or two, (before your parents would wake up and yell at you for sitting to close to the TV),this is the album for you.

"Saturday Morning" is a cartoons greatest hits album. A collection of 19 spin-offs or so-called versions of original cartoon themes. A comedy album.

Some of you might have a nostalgic experience when you listen to this album, but even though the idea is quite clever, I'm afraid the novelty might wear off after the initial listening. Then again, this might prove to be one of the great party albums of 1996.

With a combination of groups such as Violent Femmes, Frente, Reverend Horton Heat and Ramones, producer Ralph Sall can't hit too far away from the bulls eye.

What makes this CD so much fun is that most of these songs, dated from the sixties and seventies, have been turned into the various music styles of the nineties. This makes the tunes really corny, but they are meant to be.

This is a CD of diversity. It rocks pretty good at times with cuts like "Fat Albert Theme" performed by Dig, "I'm Popeye The Sailor Man" performed by Face to Face, and a kicking Ramones version of "Spiderman."

Then we have the sing-along category represented by "Open Up Your Heart and Let the Sun Shine In"(from the Flintstones) sung by Frente and "H.R. Pufnstuf" in the candy coated voices of Murmurs.

Personal favorites on this album are Matthew Sweet's version of the original theme to Scooby Doo, "My Best Buddy" and the other superhero mutt, Hong Kong Phooey, which certainly deserves the "ska" version of his theme, done by the punk trio Sublime.

Last but not least, you'll hear "Happy, Happy, Joy, Joy", Ren and Stimpy's "get happy" theme. These guys can not really be considered as a part of the Saturday morning cartoon family since they premiered on Sunday mornings in 1991. But I guess this tune was a must for popularity reasons, like it or not.

To those of you who might have a hard time swallowing the fact that somebody tampered with these original themes that your whole childhood might be based on, I'll say; after this CD you're going to wish back to those precious Saturday mornings when you actually wanted to get out of bed. Enjoy!

Sierra on Film

From the Newsroom to the Bedroom

By Sierra Roberts
Valley Star Staff Writer

"Up Close and Personal," is one of this year's best love stories, and a great look into the world of TV news. When the inexperienced reporter, Tally Atwater (Michelle Pfeiffer) gets taken under the wing of fallen news hero, Warren Justice,(Robert Redford), exitement starts building.

Sally Atwater has come from nowhere in search of her dream: becoming a big time TV anchor woman. She knows nothing about the business but wants to learn it all. Justice is the news director at a local station in Miami who gives her a shot. He sees how she "eats the lens" when she tries her hand at weather reporting. He wants to teach her the art of news reporting.

Sally changes her name to Tally, upgrades her wardrobe, and tries many new hairstyles to fit the anchor woman image. As her image improves so does her reporting. Justice teaches her what is important in reporting the news and how to tell a clear story. This mentor sees great potential in Tally and pushes her to improve.

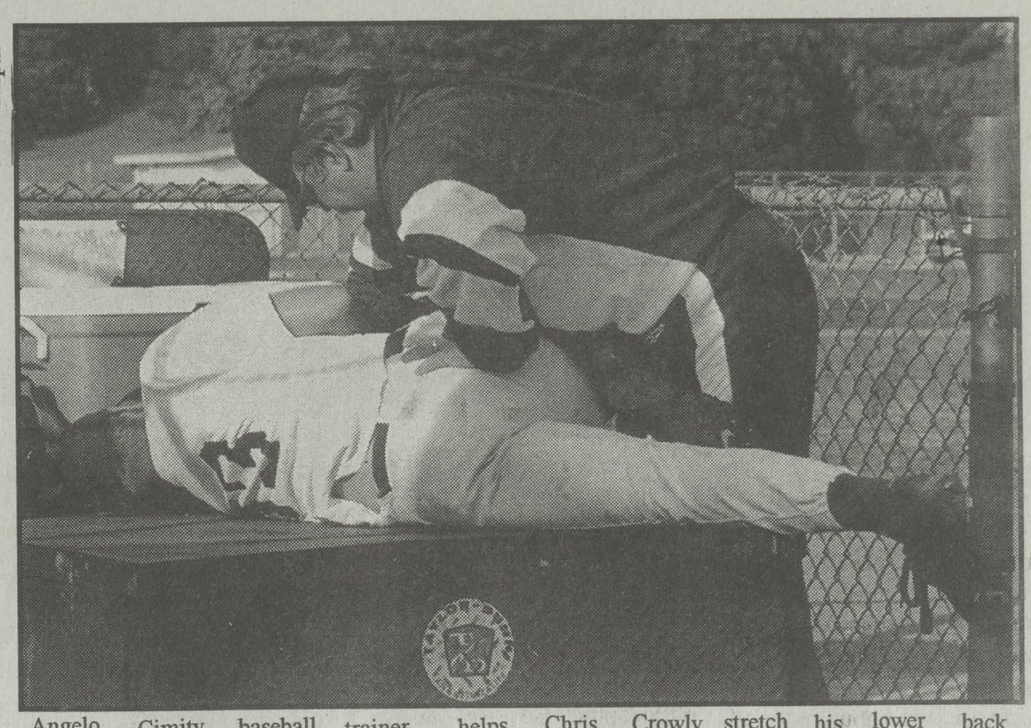
As the two continue to work closely together, a special love affair develops. Redford and Pfeiffer really seem to click on camera. The conflict arises when she is ready to move up in her career and he must stay behind. She realizes the joy he brings her is what keeps her going and without him her work lacks focus.

Eventually the two get to work together again and the magic is even more powerful than before. However, he too has dreams to chase and without giving too much away, not everything ends as perfectly as we may want.

This film is definitely worth seeing. The romance between Redford and Pfeiffer will make you feel good and believe in the power of love again.Watching Pfeiffer's character rise to stardom from the clumsy and tacky person she started out as will really warm your heart.

A WEEK IN LAVC SPORTS

Andrew Gaspar



Angelo Cimity, baseball trainer, helps Chris Crowly stretch his lower back.

Maria D. Ivey

Shawanda Hotchkiss demonstrates excellent offensive skills as she blocks a shot attempt by a player from Santa Monica College.

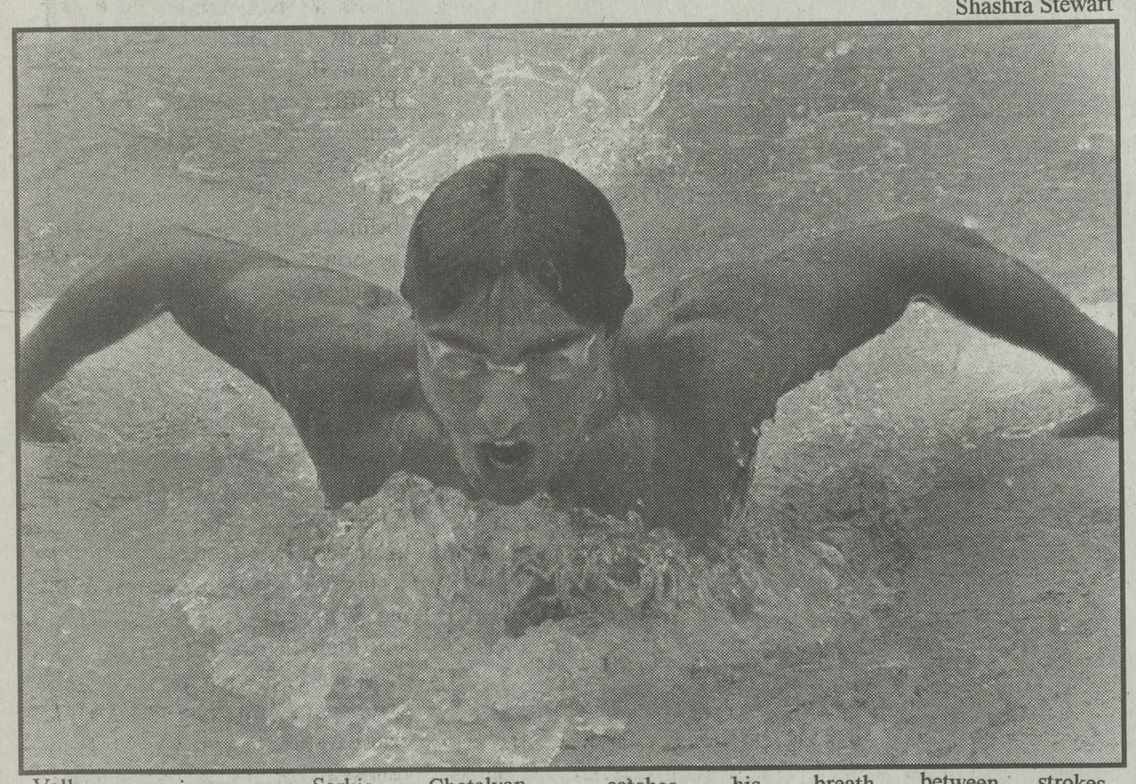
Erika Barragan

Randy, the unofficial mascot for the softball team.

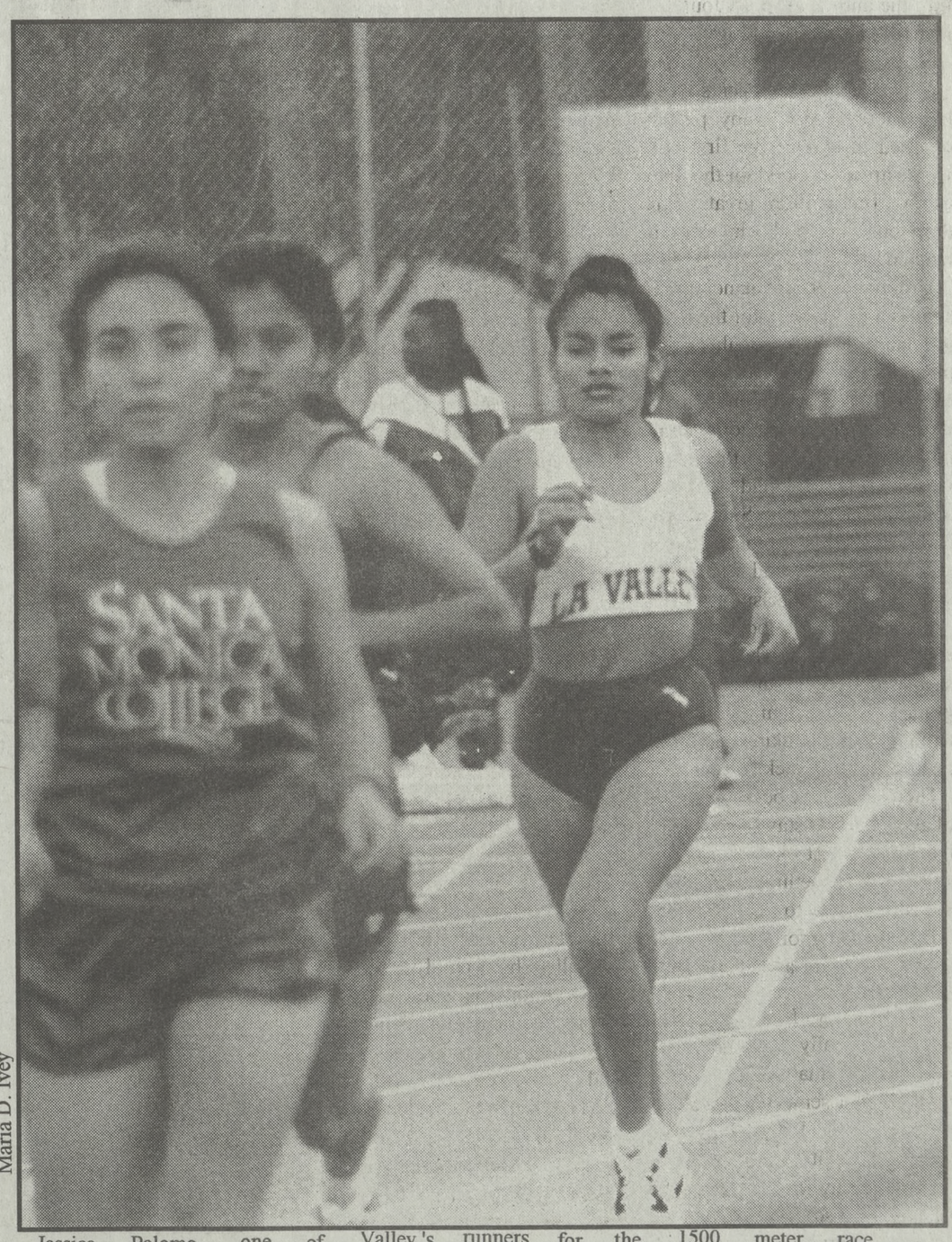
After leaving the classroom grind each day Valley College athletes practice hard in order to better develop their athletic abilities to compete in a variety of sports each week.
Sport competitions teach both discipline and commitment, two attributes that are helpfull in acedemics and in life.
Show commitment to Monarch sports and our athletes by attending Valley College sporting events.

text by Maria

Shashra Stewart



Valley swimmer, Sarkis Chatalyan, catches his breath between strokes.



Maria D. Ivey

Jessica Palomo, one of Valley 's runners for the 1500 meter race.

SWIM TEAM WORKING TOWARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

Langford Turns in Qualifying Swim for Women's 50-Yard Breaststroke

by Holly Pitzer Carson
Valley Star Staff Writer

There were no prizes awarded at Valley College's third swim meet of the year against Citrus, only the thrill of competition and achieving "personal best" performances.

Spring Langford, a sophomore at Valley College, turned in a qualifying time towards the State Championships of 32.77 in the Women's 50 yard Breaststroke at the Valley College vs.Citrus meet Mar. 1.

Setting records is nothing new for Langford. She placed second at the State Championships in 1995 and holds two school records in the 50 yd. and 100 yd. Women's Breaststroke.

Speed, strength and agility pretty much describe Aaron Robinson's performance. Robinson swam the 1000+ long distance in Freestyle and Butterfly winning top honors in the last 3 meets.

The swim meet Friday was number three in a series of 13. The final meets this year are: the Western States Conference in Ventura April 26 and 27, and the California State Championships on May 2, 3, and 4 at Long Beach. Friday's meet against Citrus at 2:30 p.m. was a full schedule of Men's and Women's swimming and diving. Valley College swim meets offer an Olympic style venue with 1 and 3 meter diving, and swimming events of freestyle, backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke, plus medley and individual medley relays.

The Valley College team takes the plunge and practices every morning at 6:30 a.m. The daily workouts are pretty much a ritual with Head Coach Bill Krauss at Valley College's 25 yard outdoor pool. Competition is the name of the game with enthusiasm and stamina a close second.

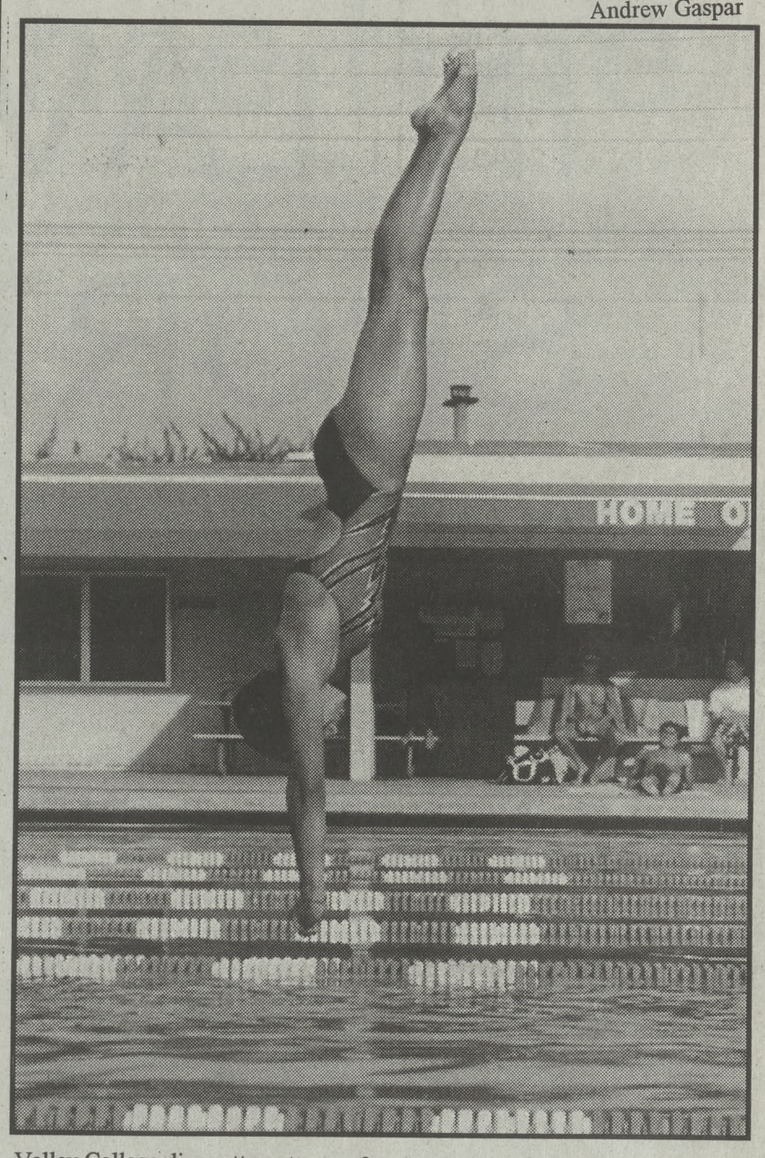
"Swimming keeps me in shape," states Freshman Shannon Fine. "I like the competition with others as well as striving for my own personal best."

Newcomer to the diving team, Jessica Winchell, is a Valley College sophomore. She was encouraged to join the team by Diving Coach, Gary Honjio. Pleased with her own performance Friday Winchell said, "I take gymnastics at Valley College and Coach Honjio felt I could be a good diver because of my ability in that sport."

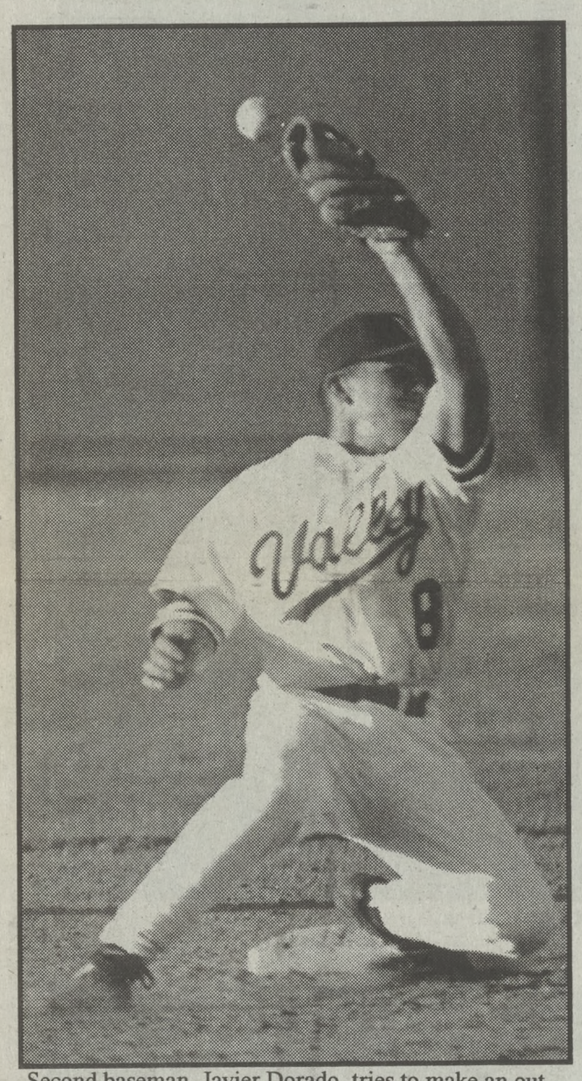
Winchell only worked out with the team for 2 weeks before turning in very good scores for her performances at the Valley College vs. Citrus meet.

Daily workouts are Mon. through Thurs. at 6:30 a.m. or 1:00 p.m. Any Valley College student carrying 12 units can apply for the team through the athletic department or see Coach Krauss at the pool.

Andrew Gaspar



Valley College diver attempts a perfect dive.



Maria D. Ivey

Second baseman, Javier Dorado, tries to make an out.

Sports Schedule

Baseball:

Thurs.	Mar. 7	@	College of the Canyons	2:30
Sat.	Mar. 9	vs	Glendale	1:00
Tues.	Mar. 12	vs	Mission	2:30
Thurs.	Mar. 14	@	Pierce	2:30
Sat.	Mar. 16	vs	Bakersfield	1:00
Tues.	Mar. 19	vs	College of the Canyons	2:30

Softball:

Wed.	Mar. 13	vs.	Santa Monica	3:30
Fri.	Mar. 15	@	Ventura	3:30
Mon.	Mar. 18	vs.	Bakersfield	3:30
Wed.	Mar. 20	@	Pierce	3:30

Swimming:

Fri.	Mar. 8	@	Chaffey	2:30

Track and Field:

Fri.	Mar. 8	@	Santa Barbara	2:00

Players of the Month

Benny Hoang 5' 6"
Grade Level: Freshman
Sport: Men's Basketball Position: Point Guard
High School Attended: Eagle Rock
Achievements: Honorable mention All Western State Conference, Scholar Athlete Fall 1995 with 3.5 G.P.A., averages 5.2 assists per game and 6.0 points per game.

Shawanda Hotchkiss 5' 6"
Grade Level: Freshman
Sport: Women's Basketball Position:Guard
High School Attended: Channel Islands
Achievements: Western State Conference "Player of the Year" southern division, Top Scoring Leader in Western State Conference, averages 20.2 points per game and 6.3 rebounds per game.

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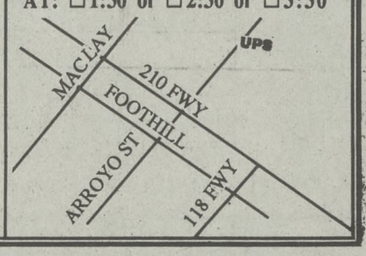

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